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National quarantine law.

The bills introduced into the Senate and House of Representatives of the last Congress to strengthen the national quarantine law, though strongly indorsed by both the Senate and House committees, were not acted upon. The Surgeon-General points to the fact that these amendments can have no justifiable opposition, at least those relating to maritime quarantine; and in view of the threatening bubonic plague he urges that legislation be enacted strengthening the national quarantine service in the manner indicated in the above mentioned bills, which have already received the approval of this Department.

Instructions to consuls concerning medical officers detailed for duty at the consulates.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 12, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant containing the names of medical officers who have been detailed for duty at various consulates in Europe and asking that the consuls be notified.

In reply, I have to inform you that suitable instructions in the matter have been sent to the consuls. I inclose a copy of one of these instructions, which are all alike.

Respectfully, JOHN HAY.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

[Inclosure.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 11, 1899.

SIR: I have to inform you that, with the approval of the President, P. A. Surg. H. W. Wickes, of the Marine-Hospital Service has been detailed to your office for duty in connection with the enforcement of the quarantine laws and regulations. Dr. Wickes is to be considered as forming part of your staff and will have charge of quarantine matters and the responsibility for bills of health will rest upon him. You will, however, sign these documents jointly with him.

I inclose a copy of a letter from the Treasury Department from which you will see that medical officers have been detailed to all the important points in Europe from which emigration to the United States takes place. This action is taken on account of the danger arising from a possible introduction of the plague into the United States.

The Department will expect you to cooperate heartily with the medical officer and render him all possible assistance in the performance of his important duties.

Respectfully, THOS. W. CRIDLER,
Third Assistant Secretary.

Mr. SAMUEL M. TAYLOR,
Consul of the United States, Glasgow, Scotland.

Detail of medical officer for duty at Santos, Brazil.

By reason of the outbreak of bubonic plague at Santos, Brazil, it was deemed necessary to detail an officer for duty at that port for the purpose of keeping the Bureau informed as to the progress of the disease and to prevent its introduction into the United States through shipping.

Dr. William H. Carson was appointed acting assistant surgeon and, by authority of the President, detailed for duty in the office of the United States consul at Santos. He sailed from New York on the steamer *Wardsworth* Wednesday, December 20, 1899, and will assume his duties immediately upon arrival at that port. He has been instructed to endeavor to arrange for transportation of coffee direct from plantations to the vessels without storage in warehouses, which are apt to be infested by rats. He will promptly notify the Bureau of the departure of all vessels for the United States, giving the ports for which the vessels are bound.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Yellow fever in the United States as reported to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service from August 31 to December 22, 1899.

Places.	Date.	Cases.	Deaths.
Florida:			
Key West	Aug. 31–Sept. 30	859	46
	Oct. 1–Oct. 31	432	20
	Nov. 1–Nov. 20	25	2
	Nov. 26	3	.....
	Nov. 30	1	.....
Miami	Sept. 5–Sept. 22	2	1
	Oct. 19–Oct. 31	45	2
	Nov. 1–Nov. 22	86	7
Port Tampa City	Sept. 4–Nov. 16	10	1
Louisiana:			
New Orleans	Aug. 27–Sept. 30	31	7
	Oct. 2–Oct. 31	73	9
	Nov. 3–Nov. 10	9	4
	Nov. 26–Dec. 9	2	.....
Maryland:			
Baltimore	Oct. 8	*a* 1	1
Mississippi:			
Centerville	Sept. 29	2	.....
Flora	Oct. 25	(*b*)	.....
Jackson	Sept. 10–Oct. 30	55	8
	Oct. 31–Nov. 1	6	1
Mississippi City	Sept. 1	1	1
	Sept. 14–Sept. 29	26	1

a At quarantine station. *b* Yellow fever reported.

Smallpox in Allen County, Ind.

FORT WAYNE, IND., *December 13, 1899.*

SIR: In Sorpio Township, Allen County, near the State line, 8 families are afflicted with smallpox, imported from Delaware, Ohio. They are all quarantined, with smallpox physician and nurse, for treatment. Number of cases so far, 27.

Respectfully,

DR. CARL PROEGLER,
Secretary Allen County Board of Health.

Influenza and smallpox in Norfolk and vicinity.

NORFOLK, VA., *December 13, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report several cases of influenza at this station. Since my last report it has been impossible for me to obtain any reliable information concerning smallpox at this port. It is reported that it exists in this city, Portsmouth, Berkley, and Norfolk County, and in a more fatal type than last year. In order to report accurately on the situation I addressed letters to the health authorities